



April 1, 2009

Dear Local Government Officials,

In 2007, the State Legislature passed Iowa Code 103; establishing a program of electrician licensing and inspection of electrical installations throughout the state. The licensing program began in January 1, 2008 and the inspection program was scheduled to begin on January 1, 2009. Due to delays in the hiring of the state inspectors, the start of the program has been delayed until March 1, 2009.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on the State Electrical Inspection Program and to clarify certain responsibilities placed upon local governments within Iowa Code 103. The primary goal of Iowa Code 103 is to improve public safety by ensuring that buildings in which people live and work, have electrical systems which meet or exceed the National Electrical Code (NEC). This goal is achieved through electrician licensing and electrical inspections. These inspections will be carried out by local electrical inspectors and by state electrical inspectors in all areas that do not have local inspectors. We have attempted to answer some of the more commonly asked questions below.

Question: If a local government has an electrical inspection program, can it continue to operate that program?

Answer: Yes, in fact Iowa code 103.29 requires that a political subdivision that was performing electrical inspections prior to December 31, 2007 continue to perform such inspections

Question: If a local government did not have an electrical inspection program, is it now required to acquire and maintain an electrical inspection program?

Answer: No, those political subdivisions that previously had no electrical inspection program will now be inspected by State Inspectors at no cost to the political subdivision. Inspection fees will be paid by the permit applicant.

Question: If a local government had an electrical inspection program prior to December 1, 2007, do the inspectors need to be certified?

Answer: Yes, but the local inspectors have until January 1, 2013 to achieve these certifications.

Question: Do all electrical installations have to be done by a licensed electrician.

Answer: No homeowners, framers, and manufactures are exempt from licensure when they meet certain criteria. Anyone can do Routine Maintenance, defined as "the repair or replacement of existing electrical apparatus or equipment of the same size and type for which no changes in wiring are made".

Question: Where can I go for more information?

Answer: Our new website, iowaelectrical.gov, is a great source of information. If you wish to ask a particular question or set up an informational meeting in your area, email contact the Chief Electrical Inspector, Pat Merrick, at merrick@dps.state.ia.us or 515-725-6147.